

12. 6. m. 6.  
23 Q. 207

816. m. 23  
— 135

*The Tender of Doctor GIBBON, unto the Christian Church, for the  
Reconciliation of Differences; which, attested by a select Committee  
of the Assembly, and Ordered by the Right Honourable  
the House of Peeres, expecteth the concurrence  
of the Ho<sup>ble</sup> the House of Commons.*

Reverend; Men, Fathers, and Brethren,

**I**n all humility I tender unto the *Christian Church* both an expedite and a certaine way, for the composing of all Differences in matter of Religion, by offering my selfe to deliver in *A Summe* or Body of Divinity Reall, opposed to that Notionall of the Schoole, which rarifieth Truth into Fire, and to that *Morall* and *Practicall* of the Pulpit also, which condenseth it into Water: that shall present the Matter and Subject whereof we discourse, unto the very Senses; so *inlarging Knowledge* (renewing Knowledge) and adorning her with many precious Evidences of Gospel-Truths; so *discharging Faith* (regenerating Faith) of many unnecessary burthens, and determinating her unto that which is her adequate and proper work; and certainly were *Faith*, that Yoak of Christ thus made easie, his burthen, the burthen of *Holinesse* would be more light.

It resolveth all *Doubts* that can pretend to necessary; prescindeth all needlesse *Queries*: stoppeth the mouthes of all *Gain-sayers* that are from without, both on the right hand and on the left: rectifieth all *Errors* that are from within; from which we are not altogether free: establissheth those *Dogma's* that are in themselves true on their proper *Bases*, no more to be ventilated as *Opinions*, but to obtaine, and be received as *Truths*; it curteth off all *Redundancies*: supplyeth all *Defects*: which are not a few; it *concentreth with Scripture univer-*sally; giveth it its full sense, and true light, without which (I can evidence) much even of the Gospel remaineth under vaile. To say no more, it bringeth downe the *Speculative*, bringeth home the *Practique*, from *Immoveable Principles*, raiseth it selfe unto *Infallible Truths*, and is *intirely congruous with it selfe*, from the foundation to the top-stone.

Lastly, it *illuminateth that Reason* which was left us in the Fall, and stirreth it up to the attainment of that End for which it was left us, that by it we might aspire unto the knowledge of God in Christ for our Regeneration, not at rest touch't with this *Load-stone*, till it attaineth it.

All which is done by eliciting a *Series of the Grounds of the Scripture*, to be subtern'd as well unto the Text, as our present Doctrines; *A way not hitherto discovered in the Christian Church.*

Which yet I say, not that I would argue her Doctrines hitherto insufficient to Salvation, (though this I may say, it hath been lesse efficacious) For whilst Piety and Reverence were eminent in *Beleevers*, these Grounds were not of such absolute necessity, howbeit now from the multiplicity of Errors, and pertinacie both of the Seducers and Seduced, I must say so absolute, that if not speedily drawne forth and evidenced, we shall not be able either to oppugne their *Novell opinions*, or preserve our owne *Ancient Truths*, but by the Sword; a way which I question whether so proper, if at all lawfull, untill this be first proposed unto them. For, *neither by might, nor by power, but by the Spirit of the Lord.*

I am ready by Conference to give you some *Specimina* or *Essays* in what points soever you shall require; and shall farther commit to writing as you shall command.

Nich: Gibbon.

*Concordat cum Originali.* Sent from the Lords to  
the House of Commons. H. ELSYNGE.

---

*He hath ready for the Presse certaine Expedients that shall  
demonstratively evidence what is here promised.*